

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed November 2, 2005. Claims 1-34 stand rejected. In this Amendment, Claims 1-3, 17-19, 33 and 34 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3, 11-13, 15-19, 27-29 and 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chartier, et al., (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0183878, hereinafter “Chartier”). Notwithstanding the following remarks, Applicants reserve the right to swear behind the Chartier reference.

Chartier discloses a non-centralized communications framework for collaborative design. Users are resident at workstations that are connected in a peer-to-peer arrangement. In a collaborative design session, the model is resident in memory at each workstation. Modifications are made at workstations by users. Each user action is translated by the local system into a command. Each command is executed locally to change the model on the local system. In addition, each command is transmitted to other participants in the session. Thus, in Chartier, the exchange of changes and their integration is performed on a command basis.

In the presently claimed invention, in contrast, exchanged data concerning changes includes parameters of a digital model’s design feature modified by a designer. Furthermore, Chartier does not teach or suggest analyzing data concerning a design feature change performed by a first designer and data concerning a digital model version created by a second designer, where the analysis includes identifying differences between the parameters of the design feature modified by the first designer and parameters of a design feature of the digital model version created by the second designer, as does the presently claimed invention. These features are supported by the present specification (e.g., Specification, para [0087]). Accordingly, Chartier

does not teach or suggest the features of the present invention that are included in the following language of claim 1:

... receiving data concerning a change to a design feature of the digital model over a network, the data concerning the change comprising parameters of the design feature modified by a first designer;
analyzing the data concerning the change performed by the first designer and data concerning a digital model version created by a second designer, the analyzing comprising identifying differences between the parameters of the design feature modified by the first designer and parameters of a design feature of the digital model version created by the second designer; and
integrating the change performed by the first designer into the digital model version created by the second designer based on the analyzing.

Similar language is included in claims 17, 33 and 34. Thus, the present invention as claimed in claim 1, 17, 33 and 34, and their corresponding dependent claims, is not anticipated by Chartier. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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